

OPEN LETTERS.

Terminology of the inflorescence of grasses.

One of your correspondents, in the December number of the *BOTANICAL GAZETTE*, objects to the terminology adopted in my paper on grasses which appeared in the October issue of the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club. He says I have "changed the definite and well-known terms, 'glume' and 'palet', to the very loose and indefinite word 'scale.'" He has, however, misrepresented my application of the term scale, for while I did use it in referring to the glumes, in no instance have I employed it in connection with the palet, being well "aware of the morphological dissimilarity of these organs." In the paper referred to I had no occasion to allude to the palet, so that I cannot understand on what grounds the assertion is based. In my paper on "New or Noteworthy American Grasses" in the November number of the *Bulletin* it was necessary to describe this organ and I alluded to it as the palet, as a reference to page 463 of that periodical will show.

Your correspondent displays ignorance when he says "the term 'scale' is used to designate the *flat* imbricate bracts in inflorescences of various families, e. g., Cyperaceæ, Xyrideæ, Compositæ, etc." While the scales in *Cyperus*, a by no means small genus, are imbricated, as is also the case in grasses, they could hardly be called flat; they are actually carinate and nerved, as in Gramineæ. They are rounded and keeled in many other sedge genera. They are concave in *Xyris*, and largely so in Compositæ. Neither are all grass scales carinate, but a large number are rounded. There can be no possible objection to calling these organs glumes if any one desires to do so.—
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Mimicry of fungi in insects.

Professor Farlow¹ has evidently overlooked the description of the mimicry of fungus spots on the wings of *Kallima* which is given by Wallace in "Darwinism", pages 207 and 208. Although he does not name the fungus imitated, he gives the essential facts as stated by Dr. Farlow.—R.

¹BOT. GAZ. 20: 547. 1895.